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STATE LEGISLATURE, M

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Saturday, 4th December 1954.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Prevention of Sri Poothatta Narayanan Nambiar from entering Mahe.

* 31 *Q.*—

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—"I do not put the question, Sir."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—"I would like to answer it, Sir, in view of certain allegations that have been made in the question."

MR. SPEAKER :—"Then, let not the hon. Member say that he is not putting the question. When the hon. Member says that he is not putting the question, how can the Hon. Minister answer it? So, let him say that he is putting the question."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—"It is not necessary, Sir. So, I do not put the question."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—"Still, I want to answer it, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER :—"Then, let it be in the form of a statement. Let it not be in the form of an answer to a question."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—"It is a parliamentary convention that any statement can be made only after the lapse of the question-hour and not before the question-hour starts."

MR. SPEAKER :—"It is a very important subject. Sometimes, with the consent of the Speaker, a Minister can make a statement even before the question-time commences."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—"I appeal to the Speaker to maintain the parliamentary convention."

MR. SPEAKER :—"It is a very important subject. So, with the permission of the Chair, the Hon. Minister can make a statement at any time."

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM :—"The answer cannot be converted into a statement, Sir."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—"Sir, an allegation has been made in the question that Sri Poothatta Narayanan of Mahe, Malabar, was prevented by the State police on 16th

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July 1954 from entering Mahe after its liberation from the French Government. That is the allegation made by an hon. Member of this House. The hon. Member must have been misinformed as the District Authorities have reported that Sri Poothatta Narayanan was one of the persons who addressed the public meeting which was held in Mahe on 16th July 1954, immediately after the French had handed over the Settlement to the people of Mahe. Obviously, he could not have addressed the meeting if he had been prevented from entering Mahe. Therefore, I would request hon. Members to verify the facts before they put questions or make a statement with regard to these matters."

Sri S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" Now that a statement has been made in view of a question put by an hon. Member of this House, would you be pleased to allow supplementary questions to be put on this? "

Mr. SPEAKER :—" I must tell the House that the hon. Member has not put the question. On the other hand, the Hon. Minister has made a statement. If the hon. Member wants to put supplementary questions, let him give notice of a fresh question."

(Sri P. Ramamurthi rose.)

Mr. SPEAKER :—" If the Hon. the Leader of the Opposion wants a debate and if the Hon. Minister is willing, I have no objection. But no supplementary question can be put on a mere statement."

Sri P. RAMAMURTHI :—" It is a very unfortunate affair. Now that the liberation has taken place, he did not want to create an embarrassing situation. Therefore, he thought it expedient not to press this question; it was not from any other point of view. But taking advantage of the fact that he did not want to press this question if a statement is made in respect of this question then obviously the hon. Member would like to make his own position clear. Therefore, a discussion on that statement is necessarily called for. Otherwise, it is taking undue advantage of the position."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member is not prevented from giving notice of a fresh question."

Sri P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Giving notice of a fresh question will mean that the question will be answered only after a fortnight."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" Let it be a short notice question."

Sri V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" On a point of order, Sir. In consonance with the honourable activities of the hon. Members of this House, when a question is put contrary to truth, is that question to be allowed to remain unanswered and clouded by untruth? "

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MR. SPEAKER :—" The Hon. Minister has not answered the question, because the hon. Member did not put it. It seems the hon. Member Sri Balakrishnan was not following the proceedings clearly. The Hon. Minister wanted to make a statement on an important subject and he made it. If anybody wants to put supplementary questions, let him give notice of a fresh question. If the Hon. Minister has no objection, let a short notice question be put. I have no objection to place it before the House on Monday."

Fixation of quotas for the export of agricultural produce.

* 32 Q.—SRI K. PARTHASARATHY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are making any periodical representations to the Government of India regarding the fixation of quota for export of agricultural produce from this State; and

(b) whether the Government have constituted any representative body to advise the Government in the matter?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) No, Sir. Quotas for export of agricultural produce are fixed by the Government of India. In fixing quotas, they usually consult the State Government for advice. Such periodical advice is being given by this Government in respect of groundnut, onions, chillies and tamarind.

" (b) No, Sir. The Government usually act on the advice of the Director of Agriculture and the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies)."

SRI K. PARTHASARATHY :—" Are the Government aware that the price of jaggery has fallen considerably, that the prevailing price does not even meet the cost of cultivation and that the feeling is that the fall in price is due to the accumulation of large stocks in this State? Have this Government made any representation to the Central Government to increase the quota for export of jaggery from this State? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Government have received such representations and they are looking into the matter."

SRI N. MAHALINGAM :—" Are the Government of Madras in receipt of any memorandum from Members regarding the need for persuading the Central Government to permit the export of groundnut as the price of groundnut has got reduced from Rs. 22 per bag of 80 lb. in 1953 to Rs. 10 per bag in 1954? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Government have received representations and they are taking necessary action."

SRI V. C. PALANISAMI GOUNDER :—" Are the Government aware of the present policy of the Central Government